

Message Text

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ACTION CU-03

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 USIA-06 COME-00 HUD-01 EB-07

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R 121052Z MAY 75
FM AMEMBASSY DOHA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0434
INFO AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MANAMA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SCUL, BA, QA
SUBJ: URBAN PLANNING AND U.S. CULTURAL AND ECONOMIC INTERESTS

REF: A) MANAMA 0519; B) KUWAIT 1931; C) DOHA 0530 (NOTAL)

1. REF C REPORTED AWARD OF THREE MAJOR DESIGN CONTRACTS TO US ARCHITECTURAL FIRM. THESE ARE MOST IMPORTANT SHOWPIECE PROJECTS NOW PLANNED FOR QATAR AND REPRESENT MAJOR BREAK-THROUGH FOR AMERICAN COMPANY. ONE PROJECT INVOLVES PLANNING AND DESIGN FOR DOHA "NEW TOWN" WHICH WILL HOUSE DIPLOMATIC CORPS AND SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. IN ADDITION, ANOTHER FIRM OF US ARCHITECTS RECENTLY GIVEN CONTRACT FOR NEW DOHA YOUTH CENTER.

2. GIVEN THESE SUCCESSES IN CONSTRUCTION DESIGN AND PLANNING FIELD HERE BY AMERICAN COMPANIES, EMBASSY FEELS THAT TRADE MISSION FOCUSING ON RELATED AND COMPLEMENTARY AREAS WOULD BE WELL RECEIVED. QATAR IS FACING CRITICAL HOUSING SHORTAGE AND GOVERNMENT IS INTERESTED IN IDENTIFYING CONSTRUCTION TECHNIQUES THAT WILL ENABLE COUNTRY TO MEET HOUSING NEEDS. GOQ OFFICIALS DEALING WITH HOUSING SEEM MORE CONCERNED WITH OBTAINING IMMEDIATE RESULTS TO EASE SITUATION THAN IN DEVELOPING MEDIUM OR LONG RANGE URBEN PLANS.

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3. MISSION WITH PRIMARY EMPHASIS ON CONSTRUCTION TECHNOLOGY WOULD PROBABLY FARE BETTER HERE THAN URBAN PLANNING GROUP.

NUMBER OF CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS NOW IN DESIGN STAGE, AND OTHERS,
ESPECIALLY HOUSING, ARE EXPECTED TO BE ANNOUNCED IN COMING
MONTHS. THESE PROJECTS COULD REPRESENT LUCRATIVE OPPORTUNITIES
FOR US CONSTRUCTION FIRMS ESPECIALLY SINCE ICE HAS BEEN BROKEN
FOR AMERICAN COMPANIES IN DESIGN FIELD. LATE OCTOBER TIMING
FOR MISSION WOULD PRESENT NO DIFFICULTIES ASSUMING CONFLICTS
WITH OTHER MISSIONS PLANNED FOR FALL ARE AVOIDED.
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